



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
OSCEOLA MAN SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS
IN PRISON FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Osceola, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's sentencing, Graves said, is the result of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Brett A. Zeiler, 26, of Osceola, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to seven years in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 30, 2004, **Zeiler** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Zeiler** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm pistol on Nov. 25, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Zeiler** has a 2004 criminal felony conviction for stealing, a 2003 criminal felony conviction for stealing and a 2001 criminal felony conviction for assault.

Zeiler was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 18, 2004.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow